

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (~~Previously presented~~Currently Amended) A method for visualizing a limited part of a 3D medical image-point-related data set, said method being based on selectively suppressing a geometrically selected part of the data set and rendering an image based on any non-suppressed part of the data set,

said method being characterized in that said selected part comprises a first selection containing all points associated to a nearer region with respect to a first clipping plane and moreover all points associated to a farther region with respect to a second clipping plane, respectively, thereby making the rendered image being based on an intermediate region between said first clipping plane and said second clipping plane, wherein ~~said first clipping plane is moved to form said second clipping plane~~said first clipping plane and said second clipping plane cooperate to form a stereoscopic plane couple that when differentially shifted to other positions maintains the orientations of associated pseudo-planes, and that when superposing point information pertaining to various stereo couples a three-dimensional stereo image of a region covered by such shifted stereo couples is derivable.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first clipping plane and said second clipping plane are substantially parallel planes.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first and second clipping planes are substantially parallel to an imaging plane.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said intermediate region is dimensioned to encompass a region of imaging interest.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, and allowing user manipulation for said intermediate region as being based on either one of a differential shifting, a parallel shifting, or a rotation of said first and second clipping planes.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first clipping plane and said second clipping plane constitute a diverging angle that is less than  $60^\circ$ , and preferable, less than  $25^\circ$ .

7. (Original) A method for visualizing each of a first limited part and a second limited part of a 3D medical image-point-related data set each respectively as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first and second limited parts are substantially coinciding but associated to respective stereoscopic lines of view, and said method furthermore providing for viewing a three-dimensional stereo image of said intermediate region through combined viewing of said first and second limited parts.

8. (Original) A method for visualizing a limited part of a 3D medical image-point-related data set generated through applying a Tomosynthesis procedure, with respect to a selected part of the data set and rendering an image based on any non-suppressed part of the data set,

said method being characterized by combining a first imaging plane associated to a first stereoscopic line of view and a second imaging plane associated to a second stereoscopic line of view to a first stereoscopic plane couple, and to differentially shift said stereoscopic plane couple to other positions whilst maintaining the orientations of their associated pseudo-planes, and superposing the point informations pertaining to the various stereo couples to produce a three-dimensional stereo image of a region covered by such shifted stereo couples.

9. (Previously presented) An apparatus for visualizing a limited part of a 3D medical image-point-related data set, said apparatus comprising:

pickup means for deriving from a tissue object various two-dimensional information sets and being coupled to data processing means for therefrom generating a three-dimensional data set for displaying on a display facility coupled therewith,

selection means associated with said data processing means for selectively suppressing a geometrically selected part of the data set for subsequent rendering on said display facility of an image based on any non-suppressed part of the data set,

said apparatus being characterized in that said selection means are arranged for implementing a first selection containing all points associated to a nearer region with respect to a first clipping plane and moreover all points associated to a farther region with respect to a second clipping plane, respectively, thereby making the rendered image being based on an intermediate region between said

first clipping plane and said second clipping plane, ~~wherein said first clipping plane is moved to form said second clipping plane~~ said first clipping plane and said second clipping plane cooperate to form a stereoscopic plane couple that when differentially shifted to other positions maintains the orientations of associated pseudo-planes, and that when superposing point information pertaining to various stereo couples a three-dimensional stereo image of a region covered by such shifted stereo couples is derivable.

10. (Original) An apparatus arranged for visualizing each of a first limited part and a second limited part of a 3D medical image-point-related data set each respectively as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said first and second limited parts are substantially coinciding but associated to respective stereoscopic lines of view, and said apparatus being furthermore arranged for providing the viewing a three-dimensional stereo image of said intermediate region through combined viewing of said first and second limited parts.

11. (Original) An apparatus for visualizing a limited part of a 3D medical image-point-related data set, said apparatus comprising a Tomosynthesis pickup and processing means, with respect to a selected part of the data set and rendering an image based on any non-suppressed part of the data set,

said method being characterized by combining a first imaging plane associated to a first stereoscopic line of view and a second imaging plane associated to a second stereoscopic line of view to a first stereoscopic plane couple, and to differentially shift said stereoscopic plane couple to other positions whilst maintaining the directions of their associated pseudo-planes, and superposing

the point informations pertaining to the various stereo couples to produce a three-dimensional stereo image of a region covered by such shifted stereo couples.